

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

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*Conference
Jewish Conference*

THE SUN

FEB 27 1945

Jews Want Voice In Frisco Parley

New York, Feb. 26 (P) — The American Jewish Conference announced today that it would seek representation for Jewish organizations at the United Nations Conference in San Francisco on April 25 in dealing "with the problems of relief, rehabilitation, resettlement and other aspects of postwar reconstruction."

The announcement, made by Louis Lipsky, chairman of the executive committee, said the conference would request the United Nations to recognize the Jewish claim for representation on all agencies established to deal with postwar reconstruction.

The conference was established in 1943 to act for American Jewish organizations on matters affecting postwar needs of European Jews.

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The New York Times.

FEB 27 1945

HEARING AT PARLEY ASKED

Jewish Conference Seeks Place
at San Francisco

The American Jewish Conference announced yesterday, following a meeting of its interim committee in the Hotel Billmore, that the United Nations conference scheduled for April 25 in San Francisco would be asked to hear representatives of Jewish groups here and abroad on post-war rehabilitation. The announcement was made by Louis Lipsky, chairman of the executive committee and one of three co-chairmen of the interim committee.

The group proposed establishment of a committee of representatives of the conference, of the World Jewish Congress and of the Board of Deputies of British Jews to work out methods of coordination and cooperation.

100289

FEB 10 1945

Dear Mr. Kenen:

I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of February 6, 1945, furnishing me with the information to which you referred at our meeting on February 6, 1945.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. I. L. Kenen,
American Jewish Conference,
521 Fifth Avenue,
New York 17, New York.

REHutchinson:inn 2/9/45

100290

American JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 Fifth Avenue

Telephone Murray Hill 2-7197

New York 17, N. Y.

February 6, 1945

INTERIM COMMITTEE

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN
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HENRY MONSKY

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DR. STEPHEN S. WISE
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ALEX F. STANTON
DAVID WERTHEIM
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE

Miss Florence Hodel
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

I promised to acquaint you with the information to which I referred at our meeting today.

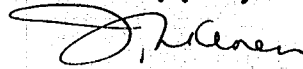
There is a dispatch from Paltor (Palestine Correspondence) from London today, which says that refugees recently arriving in Bucharest say that from 80,000 to 100,000 Jews have survived in Budapest and that of these, 40,000 are found in the ghetto. A number of leading Jews are mentioned as being alive and safe. In Carpatho-Russia, the dispatch continues, 1500 to 2000 survive and in North Transylvania, the number of survivors has increased from 5,000, reported earlier, to 7,000. Only 7,000 are reported to have survived in liberated Hungary outside of Budapest.

Another dispatch, J.T.A. this morning, from Warsaw, says that about 3,000 Jews are among the 30,000 surviving men and women at Warsaw.

The Independent Jewish Press Service, in a dispatch from London today, says that the Moscow radio yesterday addressed an impassioned warning to the Nazis, in which it told of a plot by the Germans to murder the 40,000 Jews interned in Theresienstadt, warning that these deaths will be avenged should the Nazis dare to go through with it.

I am very grateful to you for your courtesy at this morning's meeting.

Sincerely yours,



I. L. Kanon

ILK:fsk

THE INTERIM COMMITTEE WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE DELEGATES OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK, SEPT. 2, 1943, TO IMPLEMENT ITS RESOLUTIONS ON: THE RESCUE OF EUROPEAN JEWRY; THE RIGHTS AND STATUS OF JEWS IN THE POST-WAR WORLD; THE RIGHTS OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE WITH RESPECT TO PALESTINE.

American JEWISH CONFERENCE

• 521 Fifth Avenue

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MEYER W. WEISGAL
DAVID WERTHEIM

February 1, 1945

Miss Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

I reached Professor Fineman late
this afternoon and he will be in New York on
Tuesday at 11:30 A.M. to meet General O'Dwyer
and yourself at 40 Wall Street.

Appreciating your courtesy,

Sincerely yours,

I. L. Kenen
I. L. Kenen

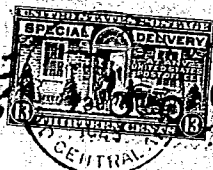
ILK:s

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AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE
521 FIFTH AVENUE
New York 17, N.Y.



GC



SPECIAL DELIVERY

Miss Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

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MEYER W. WEISGAL
DAVID WERTHEIM

January 30th, 1945

Brig. Gen. William O'Dwyer
Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

Dear Brig. Gen. O'Dwyer:

May we, on behalf of the American Jewish Conference, extend to you every possible cooperation in the prosecution of the work that you have undertaken as Director of the War Refugee Board, and assure you of our support in expediting this urgent work. We are confident that you share our view that effective measures can still be pressed to rescue those who survive in Axis-occupied Europe.

Mr. Kenen, secretary of the Committee on Rescue of the Conference, tried to reach you in New York today to ascertain whether you would care to make your first speech in New York under the auspices of the American Jewish Conference. We are holding a report meeting for our delegates and electors on Monday evening, February 12th, at the Hotel Commodore, at which the questions of rescue and punishment of war criminals will be discussed. Mr. Kenen will telephone you in New York on your return there Thursday.

Sincerely yours,

Hayim Fineman

Hayim Fineman, Chairman
Committee on Rescue

HY: fsk

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DAVID WERTHEIM

January 29th, 1945

Miss Florence Model
Assistant Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Miss Model:

Thank you for your note of January 26th.

Professor Fineman and I will be at your
office on Friday at 5:00 P.M.

I regret very much that Mr. Pehle is
unable to come to our meeting. I note that he
has been succeeded by Brig. Gen. William O'Dwyer.
Do you think that Brig. Gen. O'Dwyer would care
to come? The meeting is scheduled for Monday,
February 12th, at the Hotel Commodore.

Sincerely yours,

I. L. Kenen
I. L. Kenen

ILK:pek

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POST-WAR WORLD; THE RIGHTS OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE WITH RESPECT TO PALESTINE.

JAN 26 1945

Dear Mr. Kenen:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of January 23, 1945.

This letter will confirm to you the appointment which has been made for Professor Fineman to meet Mr. Pehle on February 2nd at 5 p.m.

Mr. Pehle has asked me to thank you for your kind invitation to attend your conference on rescue work in New York. He regrets exceedingly that, due to the pressure of work in Washington, he will be unable to accept your invitation.

Very truly yours,

F Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. I. L. Kenen,
American Jewish Conference,
521 Fifth Avenue,
New York 17, N. Y.

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FH:hd 1/26/45

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American JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 Fifth Avenue Telephone MUrray Hill 2-7197 New York 17, N. Y.

January 23rd, 1945

INTERIM COMMITTEE

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Miss Florence Hodel
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

As I informed you over the telephone, Professor Hayim Fineman of Temple University, Philadelphia, has assumed the chairmanship of the Committee on Rescue of the American Jewish Conference, a position formerly shared by Rabbi Irving Miller and Mr. Herman Shulman.

Professor Fineman would like the opportunity to meet Mr. Pehle at Mr. Pehle's earliest convenience and to discuss with him the activities of the Board. Professor Fineman is free to be in Washington on January 26th, on January 31st and on February 2nd.

The other matter which I mentioned to you over the telephone has to do with a proposal to hold a meeting in New York, at which it is suggested a report be rendered to the constituency of the Conference on the progress of rescue work. Such a meeting would be held in Carnegie Hall or in one of the larger hotels. Since this would be in the nature of a report on progress made, it would be most desirable to have an address by Mr. Pehle and we would deem it a privilege to sponsor such a gathering in New York.

Circumstances have made it impossible for us to present Mr. Pehle to the Jewish public of this City in the past. You may recall that when we sponsored a meeting marking the anniversary of the Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto on April 19 last year, Mr. Pehle had made it a rule not to address public meetings. Later, we were eager to have him at a mass demonstration in July in connection with the Hungarian situation, but at that time he was on vacation. We can very well appreciate that Mr. Pehle is reluctant to speak on matters which must because of their nature be kept confidential, but we nevertheless feel that an address by him at this time is desirable in view of the deep concern for the fate of the half a million Jews who still remain in Axis territory.

Sincerely yours,

I. L. Kenen
I. L. Kenen

ILK:fsk

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1000297

American Jewish Conference

The New York Times

JAN 21 1945

PRESIDENT FELICITATED

American Jewish Conference
Asks Action on Palestine

The American Jewish Conference, 521 Fifth Avenue, in a message of congratulation to President Roosevelt on his inauguration yesterday, urged that the forthcoming "Big Three" conference consider the problems of rescuing and resettling the Jews of Europe and the reconstruction of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth.

The message, signed by Dr. Israel Goldstein, Louis Lipsky and Henry Monsky, co-chairman of the interim committee of the conference, expressed the conviction that many of the more than a half million Jews who remain in Axis-occupied Europe could be saved if action on the matter was taken by the United Nations in concert with neutral powers.

100298

January 4, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

Mr. I. L. Kaden and Mr. Kurt Grossman of the American Jewish Conference called today to discuss the resolution which was adopted at their Pittsburgh conference in December, a copy of which was sent to Secretary Morgenthau and Mr. Pehle.

Messrs. Akzin, Marks and McCormack and Miss Hodel represented the War Refugee Board. All of the specific points in the resolution were discussed in detail with the representatives of the American Jewish Conference. In addition, they asked us specifically for information concerning future plans of the War Refugee Board and for information concerning our present activities. They were advised in general concerning the present programs of the Board and were told that the Board is continuing to do everything possible, consistent with the prosecution of the war, to save the Jews remaining in occupied Europe.



F. Hodel

100299

DEC 30 1944

Dear Mr. Kenen:

Thank you for the copy of the Report of the
Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference
which you sent us with your letter of December 12,
1944.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. I. L. Kenen
American Jewish Conference
521 Fifth Avenue
New York 17, New York

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RBHutchison:inp

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MEYER W. WEISGAL
DAVID WERTHEIM

December 12, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am enclosing a copy of the report
which was submitted to the second session of the
American Jewish Conference at Pittsburgh last week,
by the Interim Committee of the Conference and its
three Commissions.

Very sincerely yours,

I. L. Kenen

I. L. Kenen
For the Administrative Committee

ILK:s
enc.

THE INTERIM COMMITTEE WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE DELEGATES OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK, SEPT. 2, 1943, TO IMPLEMENT ITS RESOLUTIONS ON: THE RESCUE OF EUROPEAN JEWRY; THE RIGHTS AND STATUS OF JEWS IN THE POST-WAR WORLD; THE RIGHTS OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE WITH RESPECT TO PALESTINE.

*522 Exhibit file
American Jewish
Conference*

DEC 21 1944

Dear Mr. Kenen:

Secretary Morgenthau has referred to me your letter of December 18, 1944, enclosing a copy of a resolution recently adopted by the American Jewish Conference, a copy of which you also forwarded to me under the same date. The expression of gratitude for the work of the War Refugee Board set forth in the resolution is deeply appreciated.

I assure you that this Government will continue its efforts to save the Jews and other victims of Nazi oppression remaining in enemy Europe.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. I. L. Kenen,
Secretary of the Interim
Committee,
American Jewish Conference,
521 Fifth Avenue,
New York 17, N. Y.

*original signed
by Mr. Pehle*

PA
FH:hd 12/20/44

100002

American JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 Fifth Avenue Telephone Murray Hill 2-7197 New York 17, N. Y.

INTERIM COMMITTEE

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN
HENRY MONSKY
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE
Co-Chairmen

MAURICE BISGYER
NAOMI CHERTOFF
SIGMUND W. DAVID
J. DAVID DELMAN
RABBI WILLIAM DRAZIN
RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH
MRS. MOSES P. EPSTEIN
PROF. HYMAN J. ETTLINGER
RABBI SIMON FEDERBUCH
PROF. HAYIM FINEMAN
J. GEORGE FREDMAN
DANIEL FRISCH
LEON GELLMAN
FRANK GOLDMAN
DR. SOLOMON GOLDMAN
MRS. SAMUEL GOLDSTEIN
RABBI ROBERT GORDIS
HAYIM GREENBERG
MRS. SAMUEL W. HALPRIN
MRS. HUGO HARTMANN
RABBI JAMES G. HELLER
HERMAN HOFFMAN
EDGAR J. KAUFMANN
CHARLES P. KRAMER
SIDNEY G. KUSWORM
HON. LOUIS E. LEVINTHAL
LOUIS LIPSKY
JULIUS LIVINGSTON
DR. SAMUEL MARGOSHES
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DR. SAMUEL NIRENSTEIN
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ADOLPH ROSENBERG
DORAH ROTHBARD
HON. MORRIS ROTHENBERG
SAMUEL ROTHSTEIN
ISIDOR SACK
BENJAMIN SAMUELS
LOUIS SEGAL
HON. CARL SHERMAN
HERMAN SHULMAN
DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER
HON. MEIER STEINBRINK
HERMANN STERN
ROBERT SZOLD
DR. JOSEPH TENENBAUM
MRS. MAURICE TURNER
MRS. JOSEPH M. WELT
DAVID WERTHEIM
MRS. STEPHEN S. WISE
BARUCH ZUCKERMAN

Administrative Committee

LOUIS LIPSKY
Chairman
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MRS. MOSES P. EPSTEIN
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HAYIM GREENBERG
CHARLES P. KRAMER
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RABBI IRVING MILLER
SAMUEL ROTHSTEIN
MAX J. SCHNEIDER
HERMAN SHULMAN
DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER
MEYER W. WEISGAL
DAVID WERTHEIM

December 18, 1944

The Honorable Henry Morgenthau
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington, D.C.

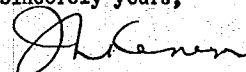
Dear Sir:

The American Jewish Conference, at its second session in Pittsburgh December 3rd to 5th, adopted a series of resolutions dealing with the rescue and rehabilitation of the Jews of Europe and their post-war status.

Among these resolutions was one urging the continuation of the War Refugee Board and proposing measures to accelerate the rescue of those still threatened by the Axis.

I have the honor to submit this resolution for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



I. L. Kenen
Secretary of the
Interim Committee

ILK:fsk
Enc.

THE INTERIM COMMITTEE WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE DELEGATES OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK, SEPT. 2, 1943, TO IMPLEMENT ITS RESOLUTIONS ON: THE RESCUE OF EUROPEAN JEWRY; THE RIGHTS AND STATUS OF JEWS IN THE POST-WAR WORLD; THE RIGHTS OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE WITH RESPECT TO PALESTINE.

American JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 Fifth Avenue Telephone MUrray Hill 2-7197 New York 17, N. Y.

INTERIM COMMITTEE

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN
HENRY MONSKY
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE
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DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER
MEYER W. WEISGAL
DAVID WERTHEIM

December 18, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

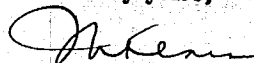
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Among these resolutions was one urging the continuation of the War Refugee Board and proposing measures to accelerate the rescue of those still threatened by the Axis.

I have the honor to submit this resolution for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



I. L. Kenen
Secretary of the
Interim Committee

ILK:fsk
Enc.

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RESOLUTION

adopted by the

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

The American Jewish Conference, receiving the report of its Rescue Commission, and hearing the reports of observers and experts in the field, hereby expresses its solemn conviction that the life-and-death emergency which originally brought the War Refugee Board into being has not yet ended and will indeed continue until the Nazi regime has been completely destroyed and the Axis powers finally defeated.

To save innocent human lives from the doom of death pronounced over them by the Nazis, we ask for accelerated efforts to speed rescue.

The American Jewish Conference expresses its deep gratitude to the War Refugee Board for its tireless and energetic efforts to effect the rescue of Jews and others from Axis-dominated countries, and appeals to the President of the United States in view of the continuing emergency and the continuing opportunity to save human lives, to extend the term of the Board so that its work of rescue may be continued.

At this very moment, tangible steps looking to the rescue of untold numbers of Jews can be carried out. Without injury to the war effort, ships and other means of transportation should be made available now for the transportation to Palestine of the remnants of European Jewry, particularly for thousands of children orphaned by the mass suicide of their mothers in a desperate effort to win immunity for them from the Nazi extermination centers. Throughout the most critical phases of the war, mercy ships were made available and rightly for bringing succor to victims of Nazi oppression in Europe.

We urge the United Nations to demonstrate their adherence to their declarations, to save the victims of Nazi bestiality by allocating ships and other means of transportation for immediate rescue work.

* * * *

The American Jewish Conference expresses its gratitude to the Holy See and to the Governments of Spain, Sweden and Switzerland for the protection they offered under difficult conditions to the persecuted Jews in Hungary and elsewhere. It is confident that this protection will be continued and its scope enlarged in accordance with the needs.

The Conference urges the Governments of those liberated countries whose Jewish citizens are being held by the Reich as forced laborers in Germany and other Axis-dominated countries, to demand through all appropriate channels that these Jewish forced laborers be accorded the same treatment as their non-Jewish citizens in the same category.

The Conference also urges these Governments, as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross, to use every possible opportunity for the repatriation of these Jewish forced laborers, who are in constant danger of extermination.

* * * *

The Conference expresses its appreciation to the International Committee of the Red Cross for the assistance rendered to the Jewish people in Europe, and urges:

a. That it issue an official ruling to the effect that the Jews deprived of their freedom of movement in Germany and Axis-dominated areas -- in ghettos, internment, labor and concentration camps -- be considered as civilian internees under the terms of the Tokyo Project and the 1929 Geneva Convention, entitling them to protection and care of the Red Cross;

b. That it endeavor to obtain for them guarantees identical with those provided by the Tokyo Project and the Geneva Convention, namely, conditions of shelter, food and medical care compatible with human dignity;

c. That it affirm its right to have all civilian internment, concentration and labor camps visited by its representatives at regular intervals.

* * * *

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The Conference regrets that so little has been done and again appeals to the United Nations to avail themselves of the opportunity for the rescue of Jews from imminent death in ghettos, internment, concentration and labor camps by exchange. The Conference appeals to the democracies to make an all-out effort to effect such exchanges on the largest possible scale.

* * * *

The Conference expresses its appreciation to the Governments of the United Nations for easing the food blockade which has made possible the dispatch of some supplies to civilian internees in German-held camps who have not been accorded the protection of international conventions. The Conference voices its confident hope that the United Nations will arrange without delay to supply all Jews remaining in Axis-dominated territory with the minimal needs in food, clothing and medicaments.

12/5/44

HAYS, PODELL & SHULMAN
COUNSELLORS AT LAW

HERMAN SHULMAN
JACOB J. PODELL
MORTIMER HAYS
BENJAMIN ALGASE
MORTIMER FEUER
HERBERT L. BARNET
ABRAHAM PORTER
SERGEI S. ZLINKOFF

MAURY L. SPANIER
LEROY C. CURTIS
MORTON L. LEVY
NATHANIEL DRABKIN
BENJAMIN SPIEGEL
ELSIE BANDES
MARVIN R. WALDEN
SIDNEY J. BROWN

39 BROADWAY
NEW YORK CITY

TELEPHONE DIOBY 4-0515
CABLE ADDRESS "HAPOS"

May 29, 1944.

Joseph DuBois, Esq.
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

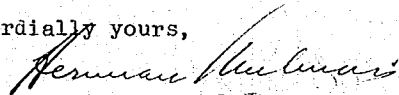
Dear Mr. DuBois:

I am enclosing a copy of the cable received by Dr. Goldmann from Barlas concerning the matter I spoke about.

Because of my absence from the city during the last few days I was unable to send you the enclosed cable sooner.

On behalf of the American Jewish Conference I want to thank you again for the courtesies extended to Rabbi Miller, Mr. Kenen and myself.

Cordially yours,



HS:B
Encl.

MAY 30 1944

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NAHUM GOLDMANN

342 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

2392 YOURS 10/5 NO DISCRIMINATION WHATEVER MADE WITH
REGARD RESCUE FROM BALKAN COUNTRIES STOP REPRESENTATIVES
AGUDA HAZAH COOPERATING STOP DISTRIBUTION CERTIFICATES
DEPENDS ON TRANSIT TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS STOP
WIRE PARTICULARS

BARLAS

RECEIVED MAY 17, 1944

*copy from Dr. Goldmann in
1944. 5/13/44 in
"Shush Agudat HaPolonia"*

700909

APR 8 1944

Dr. Stephen S. Wise,
American Jewish Conference,
521 Fifth Avenue,
New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Wise:

Absence from the city has been responsible for my failure to reply more promptly to your letter of March 31 in which you invited me to speak at a public meeting in New York on April 19, in observance of the first anniversary of the rise of Jewish resistance in the European ghettos.

It happens that my scheduled engagements and activities make it impossible for me to accept your invitation. But I hope that you will convey to the meeting my personal tribute to the supreme courage of those in the ghettos who fought back against their Nazi tormentors. And I want to assure you that all of us at the War Refugee Board, in accordance with the mandate given us by President Roosevelt, are determined to do everything possible to rescue the Jews that still remain under enemy oppression.

Sincerely yours,

J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle,
Executive Director.

cc to: Mrs Mannon
Miss Hadell
Mr Abrahamson

AO
Ajit - 4/7/44

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE April 4, 1944

TO Mr. Pehle
FROM Miss Hodel

✓
Mr. Schulmann of the American Jewish Conference telephoned on March 31st to invite you to address the mass meeting to be held in Carnegie Hall on April 19th.

✓
Mr. Kenen of the American Jewish Conference called today to support Mr. Schulmann's request and to inquire concerning the nature of your response to a letter from Dr. Stephen S. Wise, formally inviting you to address the mass meeting.

1000 11

In reply please
refer to: 267

MAR 4 1944

Dear Mr. Miller:

Thank you for your letter of March 1, 1944,
and the enclosed memorandum of proposals for the Board's
rescue work.

The suggestions which you have submitted will
receive prompt and careful consideration. It is noted
that detailed memoranda on each rescue area will be
presented in the near future, and I shall be pleased to
receive such further suggestions as you may wish to
advance as our programs take shape.

Your offer of service is indeed appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Irving Miller,
Executive Vice-Chairman,
Commission on Rescue,
American Jewish Conference,
521 Fifth Avenue,
New York 17, New York.

EBT
EBTowler:rh 3/3/44 261 -

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American Jewish Conference

521 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
Murray Hill 2-7197

INTERIM COMMITTEE

Co-Chairmen

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN, New York
HENRY MONSKY, Omaha
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE, New York

March 1, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

In behalf of the Commission on Rescue of the American Jewish Conference, we respectfully submit the enclosed memorandum embodying a number of proposals for rescue work.

These proposals implement the resolutions adopted by the Conference which consists of delegates from 64 national Jewish membership organizations and every major Jewish community in the country.

We are eager to be of service and to make every possible contribution to the success of your work and we trust that you will feel free to call on us should you desire assistance of any kind.

Very sincerely yours,

Executive Committee
Commission on Rescue

Louis Fabricant
Adolph Held
Louis M. Levitsky
Mrs. David deSola Pool
Herman Shulman
Meier Steinbrink
Baruch Zuckerman

Irving Miller
Irving Miller,
Executive Vice-Chairman

S.
enc.

267
ADMINISTRATIVE
MAIL & Files
NAME REQ.
INITIAL
DATE
I. L. KENEN
Public Relations Director
J. S. PEARLSTIEN
Administrative Secretary

200913

American Jewish Conference

521 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
Murray Hill 2-7197

INTERIM COMMITTEE

Co-Chairmen

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN, New York
HENRY MONSKY, Omaha
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE, New York

March 31, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

The first anniversary of the rise of Jewish resistance in the European ghettos falls on April 19th. In commemoration of this great epic of the war, when the ghetto dwellers turned against their Nazi oppressors and battled for more than a month, the American Jewish Conference is asking its national constituent organizations and all Jewish communities throughout the country to join in appropriate observances.

We are setting this day aside not only in tribute to the heroism and sacrifice of the ghetto fighters but in a rededication to the great task of rescuing the remnants of European Jewry and in a renewal of our resolution to make every sacrifice for the winning of the war.

In New York, the Conference plans a public meeting to be held in Carnegie Hall on April 19th at 8:30 P.M. Knowing of your deep sympathy with the tragic plight of European Jewry and your understanding of the necessity for action to save as many as can be rescued from the Nazi terror, we are respectfully inviting you to deliver the address of the evening. The work of the War Refugee Board has made a great impression on American Jewry and we know that our people will be grateful to you for the message that you can bring them.

You will pardon the short notice of this invitation -- the decision to hold this meeting was reached just the day before yesterday -- but we extend the invitation nevertheless in the belief that you will be disposed to come if you can possibly do so.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen Wise

474
W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans.
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date
I. L. KENEN
Public Relations Director
J. S. PEARLSTIEN
Administrative Secretary

000014

In reply please
refer to: 261

MAR 4 1944

Dear Mr. Miller:

I have your letter of March 2, 1944, concerning Jewish refugees in Shanghai.

This problem and the suggestions concerning it which were set forth in the memorandum submitted with your letter of March 1, 1944, will receive prompt consideration.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Irving Miller,
Executive Vice-Chairman,
Commission on Rescue,
American Jewish Conference,
521 Fifth Avenue,
New York 17, New York.

EBT
EBTowler:rh 3/3/44 JWR

000915

American Jewish Conference

521 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
Murray Hill 2-7197

INTERIM COMMITTEE

Co-Chairmen
DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN, New York
HENRY MONSKY, Omaha
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE, New York

FILING AUTHORITY
TO: Mail & File
ANS:
NO. ANS. R. Q.
INITIAL
DATE
I. L. KENEN
Public Relations Director
J. S. PEARLSTEN
Administrative Secretary

March 2, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

We take the liberty of calling your attention to a news item which appeared in the New York Times on March 2, 1944, page 4, entitled "\$4,000,000 Pledged for Aid to Refugees".

This news item reports, among other things, that the House of Commons "also approved an installment of £3,863 to help the International Red Cross open an office in Shanghai where it will be able to help a large number of interned British civilians and a smaller number of war prisoners."

In our Memorandum which we submitted to the War Refugee Board, we called attention to the plight of some 20,000 Jewish refugees in Shanghai. We respectfully submit that the office which will be established by the International Red Cross in Shanghai should also extend its aid to the Jewish refugees in that territory.

We trust that the War Refugee Board will take this under advisement and will make every effort to implement it at the earliest possible opportunity.

Sincerely yours,
Irving Miller
Irving Miller
Executive Vice-Chairman,
Commission on Rescue

IM:ve
Enc.

P.S. Enclosed is a copy of the news item referred to above.

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N.Y. Times
3/2/44

THURSDAY, MARCH 2,

\$4,000,000 PLEDGED FOR AID TO REFUGEES

**U. S., Britain to Share Equally
to Help 20,000,000 in Europe.**

By Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, March 1—Great Britain and the United States have each agreed to underwrite £500,000 [\$2,000,000] this year for the expenses of the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees, to care for some 20,000,000 homeless Europeans, Minister of State Richard K. Law told the House of Commons today. The Commons approved an installment of £50,000 compared with £1,950 in 1939 and in 1940-41.

Mr. Law said the difference in these figures indicated the growth in this "hideous problem" and also the determination and seriousness of purpose with which all governments represented on the committee were tackling the refugee situation.

During the discussion S. S. Silverman, Labor member, read a report from the Jewish National Committee operating somewhere in Poland, saying:

"Last month we still reckoned the number of Jews in the whole territory of Poland as from 250,000 to 300,000. In a few weeks no more than 50,000 of us will remain. In our last moment before death, the remnants of Polish Jewry appeal for help to the whole world. May this, perhaps our last voice from the abyss, reach the ears of the whole world."

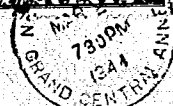
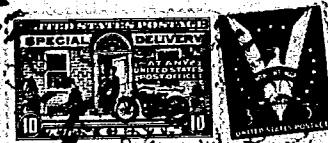
The Commons also approved an installment of £3,563 to help the International Red Cross open an office in Shanghai where it will be able to help a large number of interned British civilians and a smaller number of war prisoners.

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AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE
521 FIFTH AVENUE
New York 17, N. Y.

Special delivery

Mr. John W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.



*Inclosure Dept
Foreign Funds Control
709-12 etc
Off. No. Treas.*

200918

March 1, 1944

MEMORANDUM

Submitted by the Commission on Rescue
of the
American Jewish Conference
to the
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

As we now approach the problem of rescuing the remaining Jews of Europe, we are conscious of the tragic fact that millions have perished because no help has been forthcoming. The last remnants of European Jewry, once totaling 8,250,000, are awaiting their salvation, or else are doomed to destruction. At this late hour, everything humanly possible should be done to rescue those who can still be saved.

Areas of Rescue

There are five areas in which rescue work is imperative and to the best of our knowledge, possible. These are: (1) Rumania; (2) Bulgaria; (3) France, and related thereto, (4) Spain and Switzerland; and (5) Poland. Each area calls for specific measures to be applied in accordance with particular conditions which now prevail or which may develop in the near future.

Our representatives have on various occasions submitted proposals on rescue work to officials of the War Refugee Board. We now wish to submit an outline of proposals concerning the work to be done in the areas mentioned herein. In the near future, and as occasion arises, we shall present detailed memoranda on each of these areas.

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Avenues of Rescue

1. RUMANIA

This area presents two different aspects of rescue, one pertaining to TRANSNISTRIA and the other to RUMANIA proper. In TRANSNISTRIA there are now 75,000 to 80,000 Jews living in most ghastly circumstances, without food, clothing or shelter and in constant threat of annihilation by the retreating Nazi military forces. Of these, some 30,000 to 35,000 (including 4,406 orphans) are Rumanian subjects; they are the surviving remnants of 180,000 Jews who had been deported to TRANSNISTRIA more than two years ago. Those Jews, who are Rumanian subjects, should be immediately transferred back to Rumania proper; the others should be evacuated by way of Turkey. During this process, and before it gets under way, the Jews in TRANSNISTRIA should be given food, clothing and medical attention by the International Red Cross. (Since clothing cannot be obtained in Turkey for shipment to Rumanian territory, provision should be made for a transport of clothing from the United States, which many private organizations in this country are willing to supply.)

Two major problems concerning the transfer of Jews from Transnistria to Rumania require special consideration. It has been reported: (1) The Rumanian government has allowed the use of only ten trucks for transportation purposes. (2) The transportation fee for each person is the equivalent of third-class railroad fare. The persons to be transferred must first obtain through the Jewish Central Office in Bucharest "registration cards" at the price of 150,000 to 800,000 lei per head. Apart from this ransom money, the Jewish Community in Rumania has been ordered under threat of deportations, to pay the arrears of the 1943 collective punitive tax (which totaled four billion

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lei) and part of a similar tax for the current year.

Both, the extremely limited transportation facilities and the exorbitant price that the transferees are compelled to pay for fare and registration cards, render the entire undertaking exceedingly difficult.

The Rumanian government must be given to understand, through diplomatic channels, that the ransom money and the punitive taxes which it continues to extort from the Jews will be charged against Rumania's account in the day of reckoning after the Allied victory. At the same time, it should be made to realize that its assistance in accelerating the rescue of the Jewish people from Transnistria will be to Rumania's advantage after the war.

In RUMANIA proper, there are some 250,000 to 300,000 Jews (out of a pre-war total of close to one million). The exigencies of war in the Balkans may bring about complete Nazi dominance or even occupation of Rumania, in which case the Jewish population there will suffer the same fate of deportation and extermination as in other Nazi occupied countries. It is therefore of paramount importance to evacuate the Jews from Rumania, especially the women and children. While the Rumanian government does not officially permit emigration, it is known that in practice it does not try to prevent it. The main problem there is to provide the Jews with exit and transit visas and a place of destination, or temporary asylums.

2. BULGARIA

In Bulgaria there are now some 50,000 Jews (out of 80,000 prior to the war), almost all in concentration camps and forced labor battalions. Deportation of Jews from Bulgaria to the "death centers" in Poland started more than a year ago. The remainder is also in imminent danger of deportation, as Nazi pressure on the Bulgarian government may increase. They can be

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evacuated by way of Turkey, if they are provided with transit visas, and if Bulgaria can be persuaded to give them exit permits. Too many difficulties have been encountered in trying to arrange for transportation. Definite arrangements, for example, were made for the removal of 4,000 children and 500 adults to Palestine, for whom immigration certificates were available. The main obstacles were the lack of exit permits, and the failure of British authorities to approve the lease of Turkish boats. In another case, the Bulgarian government had granted exit visas to a thousand Jews on condition that they leave within a certain time. A ship had been secured, but it took seven weeks for the British authorities in London to act. By that time, the exit permits had expired.

The problem of obtaining exit visas or permits, both in Bulgaria and Rumania requires diplomatic attention. At the same time, every possible means of transportation should be made available without unnecessary delay. The International Red Cross should be provided with boats designated for rescue purposes.

3. FRANCE

In 1940, there were 300,000 Jews in France. Estimates vary as to how many of them are still there. Whatever their number is at present, it is being reduced almost daily, as deportations and executions continue unabated. Through organized and coordinated assistance from the underground, thousands can manage to escape into Switzerland and Spain. They would be admitted into the latter countries in large numbers, if the refugees who are there now were evacuated, making room for others to enter.

There are in France and other parts of Europe some thousands of Sephardic Jews who are Turkish subjects. It is known that they are being

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rounded up by the Nazi authorities and deported to Poland. The Turkish government is in a position to claim their release from France and Poland.

Thus, the rescue of Jews from France, especially the women and children, depends on three major factors: (1) Creation of a special apparatus designed to organize all possible means of escape to be directed from neutral centers, and with the aid of underground emissaries in France. (2) Representations to the Turkish government that it consent to repatriate its Jewish subjects from France and Poland, and that it exert every pressure on the German Ambassador in Ankara to secure their immediate release. (3) Removal of refugees who are now in Spain and Switzerland to other places of asylum. This leads us to the proposals with respect to the latter two countries.

4. SWITZERLAND AND SPAIN

In SWITZERLAND there are now some 20,000 Jewish refugees. SPAIN still holds some 2,000. While no evacuation is now possible from Switzerland, the victorious Allied Armies may soon open the gates of that country. As soon as feasible, therefore, refugees should be removed from Switzerland to make room for others. From Spain, the transfer of refugees to other places of asylum should be accelerated, without delay.

To enable these two countries to admit refugees in large numbers, the Allied Nations will have to guarantee: (1) additional food allowances required for an increased number of refugees; (2) financial support; and (3) assurances that after the war all the refugees will be repatriated to their former homes, or enabled to find permanent residence in other lands.

In connection with the evacuation and transfer of refugees, we wish to call attention to the existing strictures in the visa procedure of the United States Department of State. Under present regulations, the process

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of admitting alien immigrants into this country is protracted and unnecessarily complicated. More than half the total number of visas issued to refugees since 1933 were never used; apparently they arrived too late. We urge that the visa procedure be simplified to expedite the entry of such refugees who may come into this country within the limits of present immigration laws.

We also wish to point out that Palestine can take in a very large number of evacuees. Restrictions against Jewish immigration into Palestine should be eliminated, and the country opened to all Jews who may seek refuge there.

5. POLAND

The Jews in Poland are entrapped, hermetically sealed, and earmarked for a daily toll of annihilation, until none is left alive. Of the 3,000,000 Jews who remained in that country and of those deported there after the Nazi occupation, only some hundreds of thousands still survive. Optimistic reports place their number at 800,000; the more pessimistic, at 300,000.

These Jews are herded in Ghettos and concentration and labor camps where they exist under the most abject, indescribable conditions. Only those fit to work are kept alive; those who weaken or take ill are forthwith "liquidated". Their hope lies in extra-ordinary efforts of a political and diplomatic character. Toward that end, we wish to propose the following measures:

(1) The International Red Cross, supported by all the neutral countries, should make representations to the German government to release the Jews, especially the women and children, from Poland.

(2) These representations should be broadcast and publicized throughout the world, and particularly to the German people, through the Office of War Information and other avenues of propaganda which are at the disposal of the United Nations.

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(3) Pending the evacuation of the Jews from Poland, the International Red Cross should also request the German authorities for permission to send a delegation to that country, to bring food and supervise its distribution to the Jewish population. The mere presence of the International Red Cross in Poland will have an ameliorating influence on the Jewish position there, and may stave off the death sentence of thousands of people.

(4) The neutral countries, as well as countries bordering on Poland, should be urged and induced to cooperate, especially by providing transit visas.

(5) The general population should be encouraged to aid the Jews who are in hiding. Appeals to that effect should be dropped frequently from airplanes. Financial and other assistance should be given to these Jews through underground channels. Those who may reach the southern borders of Poland should be aided through the underground to escape into Hungary, and the Hungarian people and government should be encouraged to give them every possible assistance.

(6) The lead taken by the United States War Refugee Board in all these measures will have a most salutary influence on all concerned.

Renewal of Warnings

As a primary step in the rescue process, every pressure must be brought to bear on the German government, compelling it to cease the extermination of Jews in its occupied territories. Now that the Allied Nations near victory, their warning to Germany will no doubt have greater effect. It is important that such warning be issued repeatedly not only to the German government, but also to the German people, making it clear that the instigators, accomplices and agents of crimes committed against Jews and other people will be brought to justice.

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It has been reported that the Nazi propaganda machine is giving assurances to the people of Europe that the Allied Nations do not care about the Jews in German-occupied countries and that crimes committed against Jews will not be punished in case of Allied victory. On the other hand, it has been further reported that the German people are not fully aware of the actual barbarities carried on by the Nazi extermination squads. In issuing warnings to Germany, therefore, the Allied Nations should apprise the German people of the Jewish situation in Nazi occupied territories in all its horrible and gruesome detail. If the stark facts are called to their attention, there is at least a possibility that decent elements among the German people may respond with sympathy and exert some pressure on their government in favor of the Jewish victims.

Two Areas of Relief

Yugoslavia

Of the 85,000 Jews in Yugoslavia at the time of occupation only some 1,200 have remained, having been placed in a concentration camp in Croatia. Given the financial means, the International Red Cross is in a position to distribute food among them. This should be made part of the function of the rescue apparatus to be created in Switzerland.

Shanghai

Some 20,000 Jewish refugees are in Shanghai, denied the means of a livelihood or relief. There is no way of reaching them except through the International Red Cross. It should place them under its supervision and be given the authority to send them money and other relief from the United States.

Means of Rescue

Machinery

The War Refugee Board will no doubt create the necessary machinery

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for the various phases of rescue work which it will undertake. We offer a suggestion with respect to the utilization of certain forces now in operation. There are several private organizations, Jewish and Christian, in a position to submit names of persons who have had wide experience in the field of rescue and are presently engaged in this work in Switzerland. We respectfully recommend that the War Refugee Board, in establishing a rescue apparatus in Geneva, Switzerland, invite these persons to cooperate with the Board and to coordinate their efforts under its supervision and guidance.

Finances

The rescue work which should be undertaken at this time is of such great magnitude that it cannot possibly be financed by private philanthropic agencies. Private organizations will undoubtedly contribute to the limit of their means; but the bulk of financial requirements can be met only from government sources.

We submit, that the principles governing the allocation of funds to UNRRA also apply to the War Refugee Board. Both agencies are dedicated to the salvation of human beings. In this task, one must not draw a line of demarcation between people already liberated and those yet to be freed. The salvation of those facing extermination is even more urgent; otherwise, for them rehabilitation will come too late.

We trust that the War Refugee Board will give fullest consideration to all the measures proposed herein and that its efforts in behalf of the Jews and other suffering people in Europe will meet with success.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

January 4, 1944.

In connection with the attached article appearing in the New York Times on December 31, 1943, Mr. Leavitt advised me that the American Jewish Conference is comprised of various Jewish organizations. He stated that the J.D.C. was not a member because the Conference is mainly concerned with the political problem of establishing a Jewish state in Palestine. The Zionist group and the World Jewish Congress are strongly behind the American Jewish Conference. Recently the conservative elements have withdrawn from the Conference and this has caused considerable concern to many Jews. The American Jewish Conference has set up a rescue committee which is believed to be a rival of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, a non-sectarian group recently engaged in large-scale advertisement and backing the Will Rogers-Gillette resolutions. Mr. Leavitt stated that the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe does not have the backing of recognized Jewish organizations and that it cannot speak for the Jewish groups.

F. Model

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RELIEF UNIT SCORED BY JEWISH GROUP

Conference Approved
Committee as 'Discredited'
to Rescue Program

The Jewish Agency for Israel, which has been active in the rescue of Jewish refugees, has scored the Relief Unit of the American Jewish Committee as 'discredited' and has urged the American Jewish Committee to discontinue its rescue program.

The American Jewish Committee, which has been active in the rescue of Jewish refugees, has urged the American Jewish Committee to discontinue its rescue program.

Recent Advertisement Criticized

The American Jewish Committee, which has been active in the rescue of Jewish refugees, has urged the American Jewish Committee to discontinue its rescue program.

The American Jewish Committee, which has been active in the rescue of Jewish refugees, has urged the American Jewish Committee to discontinue its rescue program.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
for the organization of the
AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE
521 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

Telephone MUrray Hill 2-7197

November 16, 1943.

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
270 Madison Avenue
New York City.

Att. Mr. Joseph C. Hyman, Executive
Vice-Chairman.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the informal discussion had on Friday, November 12th, between your Messrs. Levy, Hyman and Kahn and our Messrs. Fabricant, Shulman, Kramer and Miller, and at the request of your Mr. Isaac Levy, we submit herewith for your consideration the following proposals as a basis for cooperation between the Commission on Rescue of the American Jewish Conference and your organization.

At the session of the Conference held in New York between Aug. 29 and Sept. 2, 1943 two resolutions were adopted on the recommendation of the Committee on Rescue, copies of which are herewith enclosed.

At the first full meeting of the Interim Committee held after the Conference the following resolution was adopted:

"The Interim Committee shall set up commissions to carry out the resolutions and decisions of the American Jewish Conference with respect to rescue, postwar reconstruction and Palestine. These commissions shall propose to the Executive Committee their respective plans for action including recommendations concerning the extent to which, and the manner in which they shall utilize the services and seek the cooperation of existing agencies in the above mentioned field."

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Pursuant to this resolution the Commission on Rescue has already been established by the Conference. At the present time Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Henry Monsky and Dr. Israel Goldstein are co-chairmen of that Commission. Rabbi Irving Miller was elected Executive Vice-Chairman. It is anticipated that other co-chairmen may be designated from time to time. The Commission at the present time is composed of about ten members consisting of representatives of all groups or blocks represented at the Conference. The Commission will coopt additional members without limit to serve on this Commission. It is anticipated that a number of individuals who can make contributions to this work of rescue will shortly be coopted as full members of this Commission. All organizations which participated in the ad hoc committee, known as the Joint Emergency Committee for European Jewish Affairs, have also been invited to full membership in this Commission, and it is anticipated that most and perhaps all of these organizations will participate.

At the last meeting of the Interim Committee of the Conference, held on November 7th, 1945, a committee was designated to confer with representatives of your organization to attempt to secure, if possible, your full cooperation with the Commission on Rescue. To that end, the meeting with your representatives on November 12th was held. It is the earnest desire and hope of the Conference that you will accept the invitation then extended, and now repeated, that you become a full member of the Commission and thus be able to give the Commission the full benefit of your wide experience and ability in this important work.

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As the suggestion was made that the proposals for cooperation be put in explicit terms, we propose the following definite plans for such cooperation:

(a) That the J.D.C. designate as many members of its board or personnel as it desires to sit as full members of the Commission on Rescue and participate in the formulation of all plans and decisions of the Commission;

(b) That whenever any plan formally adopted by the Commission on Rescue requires action which falls within the usual scope of activity of the J.D.C., the execution of such plans, wherever required, shall be carried out by the J.D.C. as heretofore in an autonomous manner and with complete use and control of the funds and personnel required therefor;

(c) That whenever plans are adopted by the Rescue Commission which do not find approval by the J.D.C. for any reason, political or otherwise, such plans shall then be carried out and executed by the Rescue Commission on behalf of the Conference carrying out the mandate given by the delegates to the Conference, and in such instances only the execution and the financing of the plans shall be undertaken by the Conference and the Rescue Commission. In so doing the Conference shall be free to cooperate with or use such other existing organizations as may be prepared to deal with such matters.

To summarize the foregoing, it is our thought that to the fullest extent possible the long and recognized experience and capabilities and manpower of the J.D.C. shall be utilized in the implementation of

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the rescue plans which may be adopted with your approval. We conceive, however, that there may be instances in which either you cannot join in the plan or in which you may find it impractical or inadvisable to execute a plan in which you do join. In such event the Rescue Commission will have to find other means to implement such decisions, but even in those instances we shall welcome your suggestions and cooperation as to the manner in which such plans shall be carried out.

We sincerely hope that you will accept full membership in the Commission in accordance with the plan above outlined. There is, we believe, every reason why there should be the closest possible cooperation between the Conference and your organization. While the above represents the character of cooperation we should like to see established between the Conference and your organization, we shall, of course, be pleased to receive any suggestions or proposals which you may care to make and to discuss the same with you.

Your representatives at the meeting on November 12th stated that they realized how urgent this matter was and that therefore you would take the matter up for consideration at the next meeting of your Executive Committee, which, we understand, will take place on November 17th. We trust we will hear from you as soon as possible thereafter, inasmuch as the next meeting of the Interim Committee is now scheduled for November 23rd.

Sincerely yours,

STEPHEN S. WISE

HENRY MONSKY
pet Louis Fabricant

ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN

*Co-Chairmen of Commission on Rescue
of American Jewish Conference*

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RESOLUTIONS ON RESCUE

I. More than three million Jews have been done to death by the blood stained Nazi tyranny and the four million Jews who survive in Axis Europe live daily in the shadow of an inexorable doom. The American Jewish Conference solemnly declared that if the Nazis and their accomplices are permitted to achieve their avowed purpose, which is the total destruction of Jewish life in the territories under their control, civilization will have suffered an overwhelming disaster beyond the power of victory to repair. Military victory cannot recall a murdered people from their mass graves.

The Conference records its deep concern that, four months after the Bermuda Conference, and eight months after the Collective Declaration of the United Nations condemning the mass murder of the Jewish people in Europe, the democracies have as yet failed to institute sustained and vigorous action to rescue those who may yet be saved.

The position remains unchanged save that in the meantime many additional tens of thousands of Jews have been hurried to unnatural deaths. The conference asks that in the name of the common faith in the fatherhood of God and of the ideals for which the United Nations are fighting, that the governments shall recognize that a distinctly Jewish problem has been created in Europe which imposes a necessary inescapable moral obligation on the democracies and that such moral obligation must find expression in special practical measures which must be commensurate with the gravity and urgency of the situation. The conference accordingly urges that the following measures be taken immediately.

1. A solemn warning addressed by the leaders of the democracies to the Axis governments and their satellites must make it clear that the instigators of crimes against Jews as well as the accomplices and agents of the criminals will be brought to justice.

That all who prevent the release of Jews from Axis captivity and their departure to havens of refuge will be punished for their complicity in the policy of extermination and that resistance to the policy of extermination and aid given to victims of Nazi policy will be taken into consideration on the day of reckoning.

2. This warning should be given force and substance by the immediate constitution of the allied commission on war crimes in London which though its formulation was announced nearly a year ago, has not yet met, and it should be a primary task of the commission to bring home to the people of Germany the enormity of the crimes committed in their name and the certainty of retribution.

3. The democracies should recognize and proclaim the right of temporary asylum for every surviving Jew, man, woman and child who can escape from the Hitlerite fury into the territories of the United Nations.

4. There should be a public acknowledgment of the right of every Jewish refugee who can reach Palestine not only to find a haven but to establish his permanent home in that country.

5. The neutral nations bordering on Axis occupied territories should be encouraged by financial help by additional supplies and by appropriate guarantees on the ultimate disposal of the refugees brought into their territory to secure the release of Jews, especially children and give them hospitality in their own lands or the right of transit to havens of refuge.

6. A special inter-governmental agency should be created-- I emphasize a special inter-governmental agency should be created which, working in consultation with Jewish organizations, should be provided with the resources and armed with the authority to seize every opportunity to send some supplies through appropriate channels, provide the means for Jewish self defense and coordinate and expand the work of rescue through the underground.

The conference recognizes that all the victims of Nazi oppression, irrespective of race or faith are entitled to aid and succor from the United Nations. But the situation of the Jews in Europe is unique in its tragedy. They have not only been more deeply wounded than any other people, but alone among the subject communities they have been doomed to total destruction by an act of state. For every one of them, men, women and children, the alternative to rescue is deportation and death.

In the name of the American Jews this conference respectively addresses a most earnest appeal to the President of the United States not to suffer democracy to go down in defeat on the first front opened by Hitler in his war on civilization. The conference affirms its faith that democracy has in its power to deny victory on this front to Hitler and take the fate of the Jewish people in Europe out of his hands. It is not yet too late but time presses.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

II. Be it Resolved that in view of the urgent necessity for the rescue of our brethren in Europe, the committee which shall be appointed to conduct the affairs of this conference in the interim between adjournment and the next session of the conference be authorized, in the discretion to implement and execute the rescue plans of the conference, and that it should be authorized, in its discretion to cooperate with or to seek the cooperation of all existing relief agencies and the representatives of European Jewry, and to make representations to governmental authorities.

THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, Inc.

270 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

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JOSEPH C. HYMAN, <i>Executive Vice-Chairman</i>			

December 7th, 1943.

Messrs. Stephen S. Wise, Henry Monsey, Israel Goldstein
Co-Chairmen of the Rescue Commission of the
American Jewish Conference
521 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

Your communication of November 16th was studied very thoroughly by us. The matters referred to in your letter were considered not only at the meeting of our Executive Committee but by the full Board of Directors on December 4th, 1943.

It is important that the record with respect to the inception of the Rescue Commission be set forth. In the call issued to the country for the meeting of the American Jewish Conference, no reference was made to any proposal for the establishment of a Rescue Commission. The purposes for which the meeting was convened were to consider and recommend action on problems relating to the rights and status of Jews in the post-war world; to consider and recommend action on all matters looking to the implementation of the rights of the Jewish people with respect to Palestine; and to elect a delegation to carry out the program of the American Jewish Conference in cooperation with the duly accredited representatives of Jews throughout the world. Invitation was not extended to the Joint Distribution Committee or to certain other organizations to participate in the Conference. The exclusion of the Joint Distribution Committee and other similar philanthropic relief agencies was based on the fact that "these agencies are restricted by constitutional provisions from participating in activities of a political nature."

Although the Joint Distribution Committee has no such constitutional provisions, it has, over a period of the last 29 years, consistently refrained from participation in activities which have a dominant political objective.

In response to a very insistent demand on the part of the delegates, the question of the problem of immediate rescue of Jews in Nazi-occupied countries was placed on the agenda of the Conference for prompt discussion. It was the general understanding, that the Conference would seek in every appropriate way, to bring to the attention of the American community, the United States Government, and other governments, the tragic needs of Jews faced with extinction. It was never believed that the Conference, as such, would undertake functional relief activities since that implied the creation of an administrative machinery for that purpose.

The implication in your letter, is that there should be a single Jewish agency to give

Messrs. Stephen S. Wise, Henry Monsky, Israel Goldstein
Co-Chairmen of the Rescue Commission of the
American Jewish Conference

December 7th, 1943.

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effect to all measures of rescue and relief of Jewish populations in enemy-occupied countries. The Joint Distribution Committee is such an agency for humanitarian service recognized as such by every Jewish community in the United States and throughout the world, and definitely known to be such by the persecuted peoples of Europe and the governments of the world.

The J.D.C. was organized as a representative body, uniting practically all groups of Jews in the United States, to the end that contributions would be made and relief administered without reference to distinction of any kind. No other Jewish organization in the United States has represented such a unified, harmonious and coherent effort on the part of all elements as has the J.D.C. No other organization has performed its functions with such utter absence of discrimination, - knowing only one principle, and that is that the recipient of the benefactions administered by it should be a Jew or a Jewish community in need. In this manner we have engaged for almost 30 years in a variety of programs of emergency aid, rescue and rehabilitation in over 50 countries. We have disbursed, notably in Eastern Europe, and since the advent of the Nazi regime, in many other areas, a total of \$130,000,000.

In relation to governments, including our own, the J.D.C. has enjoyed and more than ever in these difficult days enjoys the confidence and has received the cooperation of governmental departments in all allied and neutral countries. This relationship has been built up over a period of years and is the result of countless actual experiences, in the course of which the J.D.C. has come to be trusted and to be known solely as a humanitarian relief organization and as one which does not take part in political activities. This relationship is an indispensable asset to Jewish sufferers and nothing should be done or risked that would tend to impair its value.

No project, plan or measure, however initiated or created, and by whomsoever sponsored that has to do with the rescue and relief of Jews has ever been brought to the attention of the J.D.C. that it has not received the fullest possible consideration. The J.D.C. has never failed or refused to give its advice and counsel, to furnish such information as it had, or to give the benefit of its guidance and service matured by years of experience. In its organization and taking part in its determinations are representatives of every shade of Jewish opinion. In its work abroad it has a staff equipped through experience and through efficiency to deal with emergencies however great. Its staff in the United States is firmly established in the high regard of the Jews of our country for its devotion, its integrity and its ability to plan, implement and carry out the functions entrusted to the J.D.C.

In the light of the above facts, we reply to the specific suggestions of your letter. Your letter proposes in substance as follows:

- A. That the J.D.C. designate as many members of its Board or personnel as it desires to sit as full members of the Commission on Rescue of the American Jewish Conference.
- B. That whenever any plan formally adopted by the Commission on Rescue requires action which falls within the usual scope of activity of the J.D.C., the execution of such plan, whenever required, shall be carried out by the J.D.C. in an autonomous manner.

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THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

I urge you to read carefully & thoroughly
the correspondence attached hereto, so that you may
understand fully the recent action taken by the
Board of Directors in confirming the decision
of the Emergency Administration Committee and
the Executive Committee in connection with
certain proposals presented to the Joint Distribution
Committee by the Rescue Commission of the
American Jewish Conference.

Paul Greenwald

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Co-Chairmen of the Rescue Commission of the
American Jewish Conference

December 7th, 1943

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C. That whenever plans are adopted by the Rescue Commission which do not find approval by the J.D.C. such plans shall then be carried out, executed and financed by the Rescue Commission.

The acceptance of these proposals must have as a necessary consequence that J.D.C. becomes a part of an organization having as its dominant purpose political objectives. Such an eventuality would gravely limit the J.D.C.'s ability to be of service. It would hamper it in its work of relief and rehabilitation and in some instances would make its work impossible.

It was the unanimous conviction of our Executive Committee supported by the unanimous decision of the meeting of our Board that it would be a disservice to the cause of those whom you and we wish to help, for us to accept your invitation to join the Rescue Commission of the American Jewish Conference.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

PAUL BAERWALD
Chairman

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